TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 9, 2002 LB 1309

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, in order that the body can follow how this amendment works, if you look at the way the Appropriations Committee phrased its motion, they say that all items will be overridden except the following, which vetoes will be sustained. I'm adding mine to the list of those vetoes which are to be sustained, and that would be Section 103 found in the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education - Program 650, which is my favorite and you alls, the PEAP program, P-E-A-P. In the past, this program has brought down attempts to put together a package and I'm going to dig my heels in. And there are people who support PEAP who lobby, and the whole package is made hostage to the PEAP program. So my amendment to the motion is that the cut that the Governor recommended in the PEAP program should be sustained. I think the entire program is ill-advised. I believe it is unconstitutional, and no public money should go to support these private schools. I look on this sheet that we have and I see money being cut from the university's budget. So, obviously, we don't have enough money to take care of all of the needs of So until public education is adequately public education. funded, I will always be opposed to money going to private schools. I'm a practical politician. I am going to lay some of my cards on the table, not all, because this game might go on But I usually propose a deal to a long time. Senator...well, to "Squire" Wehrbein, but I don't know if he's in a position to speak for the committee since it's split, but here's what I'm proposing for myself, and I'll tell you how I got to this point where I'm offering a motion, an amendment. Ever since we've talked about revenue bills and the budget bills, the appropriations bills, the body goes every which way and nowhere, just flailing, and people are expressing how they They're trying to express what their constituents have told them, some of their constituents. None of us have ever talked to a majority of our constituents, and if we say that, we're not telling the truth. You never hear me get up here and say all my constituents told me this or that. My constituents have not told me to cut taxes. They have not told me to cut They trust my judgment and they know that I'm going to be informed. I'm aware of what government is about. aware of the responsibilities of government, and I know how government is to get the money to pay for those services that